



# Tennessee Farm Facts

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In Cooperation with Tennessee Department of Agriculture

March Intentions Prices Received U.S. Hog Inventory Livestock Slaughter

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## Corn Acreage to Explode; Cotton Faces Sharp Decline

**Nashville, March 30, 2007** – Tennessee farmers plan to increase corn acreage during 2007 to its highest level in over 20 years. This predicted surge, coupled with a sharp decline in cotton acreage in the State, is based on a March 1 survey of farmers conducted by the Tennessee Field Office of USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. The 42 percent increase in corn acreage is a result of a favorable price outlook, especially compared to cotton prices which have remained relatively stagnant. The primary factors holding back an even higher jump in corn acreage is the concern over possible tight seed supplies and high input costs, such as fertilizer and fuel. Other survey results show less hay to be harvested and a moderate decline in soybean acreage. Burley tobacco is expected to continue its downward trend, while more interest has been expressed for the dark tobacco types. Wheat seedings, originally published in January, have also been updated and are now projected to total 400,000 acres.

The March 1 survey showed the following results: **corn** acreage, up 42 percent from last year to 780,000 acres, the highest level since 1986; **soybeans** are expected to be down 8 percent to 1,070,000 acres and, if realized, the lowest acreage devoted to this crop since 2001; **cotton** intentions, at 560,000 acres, show a 20 percent decline from last year’s planted acreage of 700,000; **winter wheat** seedings last fall are estimated at 400,000 acres, up 20,000 up from the *Winter Wheat Seedings* report and 120,000 acres more than the year earlier; and **hay** acreage for harvest is intended at 1.78 million acres.

State Director, Debra Kenerson, was quick to note that, “The survey results only show what producers intend to plant as of March 1. Changes in commodity prices and weather conditions can be major factors in determining what farmers ultimately choose to produce during the 2007 crop season.”

**Planted Acreage, 2005-2006 and Intended 2007, Tennessee and United States**

| Crop                      | 2005        | 2006  | 2007 <sup>1</sup> | 2007/2006 | 2005          | 2006     | 2007 <sup>1</sup> | 2007/2006 |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------|-------------------|-----------|---------------|----------|-------------------|-----------|
|                           | Tennessee   |       |                   |           | United States |          |                   |           |
|                           | 1,000 Acres |       | Percent           |           | 1,000 Acres   |          | Percent           |           |
| Corn                      | 650         | 550   | 780               | 142       | 81,779        | 78,327   | 90,454            | 115       |
| Sorghum                   | 22          | 14    | 12                | 86        | 6,454         | 6,522    | 7,109             | 109       |
| Winter wheat              | 240         | 280   | 400               | 143       | 40,433        | 40,575   | 44,505            | 110       |
| Soybeans                  | 1,130       | 1,160 | 1,070             | 92        | 72,032        | 75,522   | 67,140            | 89        |
| Cotton, all               | 640         | 700   | 560               | 80        | 14,245.4      | 15,274.0 | 12,147.0          | 80        |
| Tobacco, all <sup>2</sup> | 22.95       | 19.80 | 19.05             | 96        | 297.08        | 338.95   | 344.17            | 102       |
| Dark fired-cured          | 5.50        | 5.30  | 5.50              | 104       | 11.84         | 11.65    | 13.05             | 112       |
| Burley                    | 17.00       | 14.00 | 13.00             | 93        | 100.15        | 103.60   | 107.50            | 104       |
| Dark air-cured            | 0.45        | 0.50  | 0.55              | 110       | 4.15          | 4.50     | 4.85              | 108       |
| Hay <sup>2</sup>          | 1,885       | 1,830 | 1,780             | 97        | 61,729        | 60,807   | 63,056            | 104       |

<sup>1</sup> Intended plantings for 2007. <sup>2</sup> Acres harvested.

**Prices Received by Farmers: Tennessee & U.S., March 2007 with Comparisons**

| Commodity          | Unit | Tennessee  |                            |                         | United States |                            |                         |
|--------------------|------|------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                    |      | March 2006 | February <sup>1</sup> 2007 | March <sup>2</sup> 2007 | March 2006    | February <sup>1</sup> 2007 | March <sup>2</sup> 2007 |
| Dollars Per Unit   |      |            |                            |                         |               |                            |                         |
| <b>Field Crops</b> |      |            |                            |                         |               |                            |                         |
| Corn               | bu.  | 2.33       | 3.75                       | 3.75                    | 2.06          | 3.44                       | 3.36                    |
| Cotton Lint        | lb.  | .468       | .475                       | .479 <sup>3</sup>       | .500          | .480                       | .472 <sup>3</sup>       |
| Sorghum            | cwt. | 4.29       | <sup>4</sup>               | n/a                     | 3.54          | 6.98                       | 6.74                    |
| Soybeans           | bu.  | 5.81       | 7.10                       | 7.10                    | 5.57          | 6.87                       | 6.85                    |
| Winter Wheat       | bu.  | 3.56       | <sup>4</sup>               | n/a                     | 3.82          | 4.67                       | 4.66                    |
| <b>Livestock</b>   |      |            |                            |                         |               |                            |                         |
| All Beef Cattle    | cwt. | 81.20      | 72.60                      | 74.40                   | 87.90         | 86.60                      | 91.40                   |
| Steers & Heifers   | cwt. | 104.00     | 91.00                      | 95.00                   | 92.80         | 91.50                      | 97.20                   |
| Cows               | cwt. | 47.00      | 45.00                      | 43.50                   | 49.50         | 47.00                      | 46.90                   |
| Calves             | cwt. | 130.00     | 111.00                     | 112.00                  | 139.00        | 117.00                     | 123.00                  |

<sup>1</sup> Entire month. <sup>2</sup> Mid-month. <sup>3</sup> Based on purchases first half of month. <sup>4</sup> Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. n/a = not available.

**U.S. Hog Inventory Up 1 Percent**

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2007, was 61.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2006, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2006. Breeding inventory, at 6.08 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.0 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter. The December 2006-February 2007 pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 2 percent from 2006 and up 3 percent from 2005. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.87 million head, up 1 percent from both 2006 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.08 for the December 2006-February 2007 period, compared to 9.03 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.60 for operations with 1-99 hogs and pigs to 9.20 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs. U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.91 million sows farrow during the March-May 2007 quarter, down slightly from the actual farrowings, but up 1 percent from 2005. Intended farrowings for June-August 2007, at 2.92 million sows, are virtually unchanged from both 2006 and 2005. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

**Livestock Slaughter:** Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.62 billion pounds in February, up 4 percent from the 3.49 billion pounds produced in February 2006. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.56 million head, up 9 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,274 pounds. Calf slaughter totaled 66,900 head, up 27 percent from February 2006. The average live weight was down 50 pounds from last year, at 307 pounds. Hog kill totaled 8.12 million head, down slightly February 2006. The average live weight was down 2 pounds from the previous year, at 269 pounds. Sheep slaughter totaled 204,400 head, 1 percent above last year. The average live weight was 140 pounds, down 4 pounds from February a year ago.

**Livestock Slaughter<sup>1</sup>: Tennessee & United States, February 2006 and 2007**

| Species              | Number Slaughtered |         | Total Live Weight |           | Average Live Weight |       |  |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------|-------------------|-----------|---------------------|-------|--|
|                      | 2006               | 2007    | 2006              | 2007      | 2006                | 2007  |  |
|                      | 1,000 Head         |         | 1,000 Pounds      |           | Pounds              |       |  |
| <b>Tennessee</b>     |                    |         |                   |           |                     |       |  |
| Cattle               | 1.1                | 1.8     | 1,080             | 1,640     | 956                 | 929   |  |
| Calves               | 0.1                | 0.1     | 34                | 48        | 584                 | 455   |  |
| Hogs                 | 45.8               | 47.4    | 22,268            | 22,407    | 486                 | 473   |  |
| Sheep & lambs        | 0.8                | 0.9     | 60                | 71        | 79                  | 79    |  |
| <b>United States</b> |                    |         |                   |           |                     |       |  |
| Cattle               | 2,346.6            | 2,561.7 | 3,000,905         | 3,250,650 | 1,284               | 1,274 |  |
| Calves               | 52.7               | 66.9    | 18,693            | 20,401    | 357                 | 307   |  |
| Hogs                 | 8,055.6            | 8,117.0 | 2,183,590         | 2,183,691 | 271                 | 269   |  |
| Sheep & lambs        | 202.2              | 204.4   | 29,162            | 28,631    | 144                 | 140   |  |

<sup>1</sup> Includes slaughter under Federal inspection and other commercial slaughter (excludes farm slaughter).

**Grain Stocks: Tennessee and U.S., March 1, 2006-2007 with Comparisons**

|                                     | Tennessee   |              |              | United States |             |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                     | Mar 1, 2006 | Dec 1, 2006  | Mar 1, 2007  | Mar 1, 2006   | Dec 1, 2006 | Mar 1, 2007 |
| 1,000 Bushels                       |             |              |              |               |             |             |
| <b>On-Farm Stocks <sup>1</sup></b>  |             |              |              |               |             |             |
| Corn                                |             |              |              | 4,055,000     | 5,627,000   | 3,330,000   |
| Wheat                               |             |              |              | 256,000       | 403,250     | 192,450     |
| Soybeans                            |             |              |              | 872,000       | 1,461,000   | 910,000     |
| Grain Sorghum                       |             |              |              | 26,200        | 38,100      | 17,100      |
| Oats                                |             |              |              | 42,200        | 53,000      | 33,900      |
| <b>Off-Farm Stocks <sup>2</sup></b> |             |              |              |               |             |             |
| Corn                                | 14,308      | 14,331       | 12,058       | 2,932,328     | 3,305,707   | 2,739,692   |
| Wheat                               | 5,357       | 8,248        | 5,902        | 716,215       | 911,408     | 663,320     |
| Soybeans                            | 2,661       | 10,104       | 3,595        | 797,206       | 1,240,366   | 874,276     |
| Grain Sorghum                       | 446         | <sup>3</sup> | <sup>3</sup> | 166,936       | 174,094     | 125,094     |
| Oats                                | 100         | 86           | 68           | 32,673        | 45,889      | 37,127      |
| <b>Total Stocks <sup>1</sup></b>    |             |              |              |               |             |             |
| Corn                                |             |              |              | 6,987,328     | 8,932,707   | 6,069,692   |
| Wheat                               |             |              |              | 972,215       | 1,314,658   | 855,770     |
| Soybeans                            |             |              |              | 1,669,206     | 2,701,366   | 1,784,276   |
| Grain Sorghum                       |             |              |              | 193,136       | 212,194     | 142,194     |
| Oats                                |             |              |              | 74,873        | 98,889      | 71,027      |

<sup>1</sup> Estimates for Tennessee on-farm stocks are not published. <sup>2</sup> Includes stocks at mills, elevators, warehouses, terminals, and processors. <sup>3</sup> Not published to avoid disclosures of individual operations.

**U.S. Dairy Products:** Total cheese output (excluding cottage cheese) for February 2007 was 745 million pounds, 3.3 percent above February 2006 but 9.8 percent below January 2007. Italian type cheese production totaled 320 million pounds, 4.1 percent above February 2006 but 9.4 percent below January 2007. American type cheese production totaled 302 million pounds, 0.7 percent below February 2006 and 11.9 percent below January 2007. Butter production was 134 million pounds, 2.0 percent below February 2006 and 11.1 percent below January 2007. Dry Milk Powders (comparisons with February 2006): Nonfat dry milk, human 98.1 million pounds, down 16.5 percent; and Skim milk powders, 11.0 million pounds, down 57.0 percent. Whey products (comparisons with February 2006): Dry whey, total, 90.1 million pounds, up 0.4 percent; Lactose, human and animal, 60.0 million pounds, up 15.7 percent; and Whey protein concentrate, total, 30.8 million pounds, down 6.5 percent. Frozen products (comparisons with February 2006): Ice cream, Regular (hard), 64.6 million gallons, up 2.7 percent; Ice cream, Lowfat,(total) 29.4 million gallons, up 21.9 percent; Sherbet (hard), 3.87 million gallons, down 7.3 percent; and Frozen Yogurt (total), 4.11 million gallons, down 9.1 percent.

**Chicken & Eggs:** U.S. egg production totaled 6.91 billion during February 2007, down 1 percent from last year. Production included 5.92 billion table eggs, and 998 million hatching eggs, of which 937 million were broiler-type and 61 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during February 2007 averaged 347 million, down 1 percent from last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 1,992 eggs, down slightly from February 2006.

**Layers and Eggs: Layers on Hand and Eggs Produced by Selected States and United States, During February 2006 and 2007**

| Selected States               | Table Egg Layers in Flocks 30,000 or more |         | All Layers <sup>1</sup> |         | Eggs per 100 for All Layers <sup>1</sup> |       |
|-------------------------------|---|---------|-------------------------|---------|--|-------|
|                               | 2006                                      | 2007    | 2006                    | 2007    | 2006                                     | 2007  |
|                               | Thousands                                 |         |                         |         | Number                                   |       |
| Alabama                       | 1,696                                     | 1,247   | 8,897                   | 8,604   | 1,765                                    | 1,732 |
| Arkansas                      | 4,125                                     | 4,582   | 14,481                  | 14,561  | 1,726                                    | 1,738 |
| Georgia                       | 9,785                                     | 10,019  | 19,550                  | 19,755  | 1,908                                    | 1,883 |
| North Carolina                | 3,402                                     | 4,071   | 11,073                  | 11,902  | 1,797                                    | 1,815 |
| All Other States <sup>2</sup> | 266,061                                   | 262,321 | 296,017                 | 292,183 | 2,027                                    | 2,027 |
| United States                 | 285,069                                   | 282,240 | 350,018                 | 347,005 | 1,994                                    | 1,992 |

<sup>1</sup> Includes all layers and eggs produced in both table egg and hatching egg flocks regardless of size. <sup>2</sup> Tennessee is included in all other states total.

## Tennessee Healthy Hardwoods Field Days

The Tennessee Forestry Association is sponsoring three events which will focus on the management practices applied to improve existing forest stands. The first is May 12 at Lone Mountain State Park, followed on May 19 at the University of the South Forest; and finally on June 2 at Chickasaw State Forest. There is no fee associated with attending. To register, call the Tennessee Forestry Association at 1-800-893-7403 or visit [www.tnforestry.com](http://www.tnforestry.com).

### Spring Wildfire Season Sparks Prevention Message Permits Required for Open Burning

**Nashville, Tenn.** – Moderate wildfire conditions this spring have prompted state forestry officials to remind the public to “think before you burn” by calling your local state Division of Forestry office.

During official fire season, Oct. 15 through May 15, state law requires citizens to get a burning permit before conducting any open, outdoor burning.

“The burning permit system is a very important wildfire prevention tool that allows us to communicate with citizens about how, when and where it is safe to burn,” said State Forester Steve Scott. “By getting a burning permit, not only are you complying with the law, but you may be saving your own valuable property and possibly lives. It’s that important.”

Citizens can obtain a verbal burning permit by simply calling their local Division of Forestry office listed in the phone directory under state government between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Permits are generally good for 24 hours and can be issued for weekends. A directory of state forestry offices by county can be found on the Web at [www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/forestry](http://www.tennessee.gov/agriculture/forestry), click on Fire Information then Burning Permits.